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Approved For Release 2005/08/03 : CIA-RDP79B00864A001400010051-0

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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

OCI# 0575/74
May 8, 1974

ROMANIA

Ceausescu-Zhivkov Meeting Planned

According to Foreign Minister Macovescu, party/state leader Ceausescu will meet with his Bulgarian counterpart Todor Zhivkov later this month. Their last bilateral meeting occurred in September 1972, when Ceausescu visited Sofia. This year's meeting, however reportedly will take place on the border, symbolizing the correct relations between the two countries. If past practice holds true, they will meet alternately at the Romanian city of Giurgiu and the Bulgarian city of Ruse. One probable topic for discussion is the forthcoming visit of Tito to Romania. In addition, Zhivkov, who has just returned from a visit to Moscow, may be bringing Soviet advice to Ceausescu concerning an international communist conference which the Romanians continue to oppose.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Wayward Can Return to the Ranks

An article in the party newspaper, Rude Pravo, on May 4 deals with the question "How should we live?" The question is asked frequently by those who lost their jobs because they were supporters of Dubcek. The columnist notes that their lives have changed in every respect as they make a new start. He claims, however, that not everyone "who placed himself outside the ranks" has remained helpless and stationary. Some have changed their (political) course and found their niche. Others waited, expecting that "everything would be as it used to be."

The columnist points out, however, that five years have passed and "there is not the least hope that something could change" with respect to the general lines of development. He does not find this outlook upsetting, but concludes that nobody needs to starve in the socialist system if he works honestly and "adheres to the principles of coexistence." This column may reflect a regime desire to rehabilitate more of the professionals who were ousted.

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